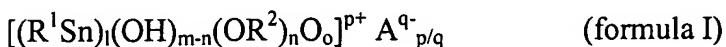


**In the Claims:**

Cancel claims 1-19 without prejudice and substitute the following claims 20-39:

Claims 1-19. (Canceled)

20. (New) A catalytic composition for esterification, transesterification and polycondensation reactions of dicarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids and/or hydroxy carboxylic acids and alcohols, said catalytic composition containing a tin compound of the general formula (I):



wherein:

$R^1$  and  $R^2$  each independently is a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl group or aryl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms,

$A^{q-}$  is an anion,

$l = 12$ ,

$m = 6$ ,

$n = 0$  to  $6$ ,

$o = 14$ ,

$p = 2$  and

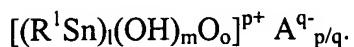
$q = 2$ .

21. (New) The catalytic composition according to claim 20, wherein the anion  $A^{q-}$  is  $O^{2-}$ ,  $OH^-$ , a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl group, aryl carboxy group or alkoxy group each having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, the anion of a mineral acid or a metalate.

22. (New) The catalytic composition according to claim 21, wherein the anion  $A^{q-}$  is a sulphate, sulphite, phosphate, halogenide or pseudo-halogenide, titanate, zirconate, aluminate or zincate anion.

23. (New) The catalytic composition according to claim 20, wherein the anion  $A^{q-}$  is a chloride anion and  $R^1$  is an octyl- and /or butyl group.

24. (New) A process for the preparation of a catalytic composition according to claim 20, said process comprising the step of reacting a metal alkoxide with a tin compound of the general formula:



25. (New) The process according to claim 24, wherein in the tin compound of general formula (I),  $n=1$  to 6.

26. (New) The process according to claim 24, wherein said metal alkoxide and said tin compound are reacted in a mole proportion of 1:0.0001 up to 1:20, in particular 1:4 to 1:6, respectively.

27. (New) The process according to claim 26, wherein resultant metal oxides, metal hydroxides and/or alkoxy metal hydroxides remain in the catalytic composition.

28. (New) The process according to claim 24, wherein resultant metal oxides, metal hydroxides and/or alkoxy metal hydroxides remain in the catalytic composition.

29. (New) A method for the continuous or batchwise production of esters or polycondensation products by esterification, transesterification, polyesterification or polytransesterification reaction, said method comprising using the catalytic composition as defined in claim 20.

30. (New) The method according to claim 29, comprising a polyesterification reaction of a dicarboxylic acid derivative with a mono, divalent or polyvalent alcohol in the presence of the catalytic composition.

31. (New) The method according to claim 30, employing derivatives of di or polycarboxylic acids selected from the group of esters or halogenides.

32. (New) The method according to claim 29, employing derivatives of di or polycarboxylic acids selected from the group of esters or halogenides.

33. (New) The method according to claim 29, employing derivatives of hydroxycarboxylic acids selected from esters.

34. (New) The method according to claim 29, employing a metal concentration of said catalytic composition in the range of 0.1 ppm to 1 mole percent, in particular 10-100 ppm with reference to the acid or derivative to be reacted.

35. (New) The method according to claim 29, employing a solvent or suspending agent for the manufacturing of the catalytic composition and/or said esterification, transesterification, polyesterification or polytransesterification reaction.

36. (New) The method according to claim 35, employing the same solvent and/or suspending agent in the manufacturing of said catalytic composition and said esterification, transesterification, polyesterification or polytransesterification reaction.

37. (New) The method according to claim 35, employing a solvent or suspending agent selected from the group consisting of mono-, di- or polyvalent alcohols being reacted in said esterification, transesterification, polyesterification or polytransesterification reaction.

38. (New) A composition comprising polyester for bottles, films, foils, yarn and/or molded padding, or resins for powder coatings or technical synthetic materials, obtained by a synthesis process employing a catalytic composition as defined in claim 20.

39. (New) The polyester or resin composition according to claim 38, wherein said polyester is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, poly-2,2-dimethylpropyl-1,3-terephthalate, polypropylene terephthalate, polydiethyleneglycol terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, polynaphthalene terephthalate, polyethylene naphthalate and mixtures thereof.